



120 State Street - Montpelier, VT 05620-2501 - (802) 828-3135 - www.education.vermont.gov

Commissioner Convenes Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council

Montpelier, VT – Commissioner of Education Armando Vilaseca is proud to announce the formation of the Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council. Composed of individuals with deep and diverse experience, the advisory council will provide a regular forum for communication and collaboration between Vermont's Commissioner of Education and the community.

"The goal of the advisory council is to provide more resources and support to schools as they address issues of harassment, hazing, and/or bullying," said Commissioner Vilaseca. "I am confident the advisory council will be able to support schools in this manner. Their collective expertise is invaluable, and I look forward to working with them."

The advisory council will be chaired by Tracey Tsugawa of the Vermont Human Rights Commission. Tsugawa, a civil rights investigator, focuses on bullying and harassment issues in schools. She also serves as a member of the Vermont State Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Tsugawa holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has been teaching for 28 years.

Advisory Council Members:

- Barbara Crippen, Staff Attorney, VT Department of Education
- Dr. Charles E. Memusi Johnson, Safe Schools Coordinator, VT Department of Education
- Curtiss Reed, Jr., Executive Director, VT Partnerships for Fairness and Diversity
- Henri Sparks, Equity Director, Burlington School District
- Jeff Fannon, General Counsel, VT-NEA
- Jeff Francis, Executive Director, VT Superintendents Association
- Kathy Johnson, Independent Consultant
- Ken Page, Executive Director, VT Principals' Association
- Kim Brittenham, Community Access Coordinator, VT Center for Independent Living
- Mill Moore, Executive Director, VT Independent Schools Association
- Nicole Mace, Associate Director for Legal Services, VT School Boards Association
- Robert Appel, Executive Director, VT Human Rights Commission
- Saben Littlefield, Education & Statewide Field Manager, Outright Vermont
- Tracey Tsugawa, Civil Rights Investigator, VT Human Rights Commission

The new council underscores the Department's commitment to working with the community on prevention efforts. Commissioner Vilaseca has asked the advisory council to provide advice and recommendations on harassment, hazing, and bullying prevention strategies and resources, and

to coordinate statewide activities related to the prevention of and response to harassment, hazing, and bullying.

The Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council bios are available online: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/council_bullying.html. The advisory council will hold its first meeting on August 31, 2012 at the Vermont Department of Education, and plans to put out a call for a student representative in the 2012-2013 school year. The council shall report annually in January to the State Board and the House and Senate Committees on Education.

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